

China Mail.

Established February, 1845.

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HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1890.

日九月二日年庚

PRICE, \$2 PER MONTH.

Intimations.

BY APPOINTMENT.

A. WATSON & Co., Limited, (ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.)

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY, HONGKONG.

Wholesale and Retail Druggists. ANALYTICAL FAMILY DISPENSING AND GENERAL CHEMISTS. PATENT MEDICINE PROPRIETORS. SEEDSMEN. WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS. MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED WATERS.

BY STEAM MACHINERY. CIGAR IMPORTERS, &c., &c.

In submitting an abridged Synopsis of a few of the chief lines of goods included in our stock, we beg to state that we import Drugs, Chemicals, and Goods of every kind of the best description only—no other quality is kept in stock.

Our long experience and intimate acquaintance with the Trade, and the best sources of supply, enable us to purchase direct from the Producers on the very best terms, and thus give us an advantage which enables us to offer our constituents the benefit of considerable reduction in the price of all our Specialties as compared with similar articles sold elsewhere.

We wish it to be clearly understood that our price cannot be beaten by any other firm in the Colony; and we trust it will soon become generally known that, quality for quality, our charges all round compare favorably with local rates, and in most instances with those ruling at home.

Experienced qualified English Assistants only are employed in the preparation and dispensing of Medicines.

Analysis of all Kinds—We are in a position to attend to the interests of our clients.

FAMILY & DOMESTIC MEDICINES, AND OTHER GOODS AND APPLIANCES KEPT IN STOCK.

NURSERY AND INVALIDS' REQUIREMENTS.

Infants' Feeding Bottles, Ditto Brushes and Teats, Food Warmers, Lamps, and Night-lights.

Infants' Feeding Cups and Tubes, Breast Relevers, Nipple Shields, Violet Powder, Puff Boxes, and Puffs.

Infants' Food of all kinds.

Brand's Essence of Beef, Mutton, Chicken, Veal, &c.

Liver Oil.

MINERAL WATERS OF ALL KINDS.

Apollonia, Carlsbad, Eauclap, Friedrichshafen, Hunyadi János, Pulten, Vals, Vichy, &c.

We import direct shipments of all the above regularly at short intervals.

PHOTOGRAPHIC GOODS.

Photographic Apparatus, Chemicals, and Materials of all kinds suitable for Amateurs and Professionals, including Cameras, Lenses, Bells, Trays, Lamps, Mounts, &c.

Our Cameras and Lenses are of exceptional quality, specially made for use in tropical climates, and fitted with the latest improvements.

CHINESE APPARATUS FOR AMATEURS AND TRAVELLERS.

Three sizes, viz.: 1, 2, and whole plate. Complete in strong Wood Cabinets.

PHOTO CHEMICALS AND SUNDRIES of all kinds at Moderate Prices.

Albuminized and Sensitized Papers.

Thomas' Collodion and Lidizer.

Dry Plates—Thomas', Lillard, and Wratton & Whitmore's kept in Stock.

Price list of Photo. goods supplied gratis and post free on application.

FLOWER & VEGETABLE SEEDS.

We import the newest and best varieties obtainable every season direct from the best growers in England, France, and Germany.

Full Catalogue and price list (with hints for Gardening) to be had on application.

ARTIFICIAL WATERS.

Our Factory has been recently refitted with automatic Steam Machinery of the latest and most approved kind, and we are well able to compete in quality with the best English Makers.

The first ingrediencies are used, and the utmost care and cleanliness are exercised in the manufacture throughout.

For COAST PORTS—Waters are packed and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and the full amount allowed for Packages & Empties when received in good order.

Analytical Reports and full particulars to be had on application.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

We import direct to our old landed Brands, all of which are of excellent quality and good value for the money.

The same being specially selected by our London House, and bought direct from the most noted Shippers, are imported and sold by ourselves thus enabling us to supply the best growth at moderate prices.

Price list to be had on application.

MANILA CIGARS AND CIGARETTES.

A carefully-selected and well-matured stock of most of the best makes and our own special brands always on hand.

We can deliver boxes of 500 or more to any address in England, duty and all expenses paid.

CIGARETTES.

We import direct shipments of the following famous Brands regularly at short intervals.

Sweet Oopar, Richmond Gem, and Old Judge.

TOBACCO.

IN TINS AND PACKETS.

Pipes, Cigar and Cigarette Tubes, Cigar and Cigarette Cases, Punches, Cigarette Machines, and a varied assortment of Smokers' requisites.

COOKS FOR COAST PORTS.

When ready to leave, to be despatched by first steamer leaving after receipt of order.

Most articles can now be sent by the local Parcel Post. All retail orders of the value of five dollars and upwards sent freight or postage paid.

Orders through Local Post or by Telegraph receive prompt attention.

Address to the Engineers, Order Papers, and Accountants.

Aerated Water Counterfeits supplied from application.

A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd., THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY, HONGKONG.

BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS.

A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED.

THE SHENCHI PHARMACY, SHANGHAI,

24, Nanjing Road.

BOTIC INDEZ, MANILA, Escorial 14,

THE CANTON DISPENSARY, CANTON,

Canton Road.

THE DISPENSARY, FOOCHEW,

THE DISPENSARY, HANKOW,

THE DISPENSARY, TIENTSIN,

LONDON OFFICE,

109, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

Intimations.

TOILET REQUISITES: JOSEPH RODGERS & CO., "SHEFFIELD" ROSES, Sponges, and Perfumes.

SOAP, SHAMPOO, PASTES, and Paper.

EAR, TOOT, and NAIL PICKS and TRIMMERS.

Hand Mirrors, Toilets Sets.

Smelling Bottles of all kinds.

Glove, and Patent Drying Bottles.

Dressing Combs.

Hair, Tooth, Nail, Bath, and Shaving Brushes in great variety.

Cosmetics, Hair Lotions and Pomades.

Tooth Paste, Powders, and Soaps.

Turbo Bath Gloves, and Straps, Loofahs.

Fine Turkey Cup and Honey Comb.

Bath and Toilet Sponges of all sizes.

First English Cut-glass Toilet Bottles and Perfume Diffusers.

An Elegant assortment of various designs.

CHOICE PERFUMERY.

English, French, and American.

A large selection of all kinds kept in stock to choose from.

SOAP.

Family, Toilet, Medicated, and Transparent.

In addition to those of our own make, all of which we can confidently recommend, we keep a large and varied assortment of the following well-known marks, viz.:

Atkinson's, Calvert's, Colgate's, Hendrie's, Lubin's, Peat's, &c., &c.

Genuine PATENT MEDICINES.

European and American Patent Medicines, Specialities, and Proprietary Remedies, imported direct from the Original Makers or their appointed Agents.

Specialties—Bath, Household, Wellcome & Co.'s New and Popular Remedies.

Kepfer's Extract of Malt—Ditto with Cod Liver Oil; Wyeth's Tabloid—Ditto with Cod Liver Oil; Wyeth's Tabloid—Ditto with Cod Liver Oil.

Fairchild's Digestive Peptonoids, Zymeine, &c., &c.

SOLE AGENTS for Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil.

FAMILY & DOMESTIC MEDICINES, AND OTHER GOODS AND APPLIANCES KEPT IN STOCK.

NURSERY AND INVALIDS' REQUIREMENTS.

Infants' Feeding Bottles, Ditto Brushes and Teats, Food Warmers, Lamps, and Night-lights.

Infants' Feeding Cups and Tubes.

Breast Relevers, Nipple Shields, Violet Powder, Puff Boxes, and Puffs.

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MINERAL WATERS OF ALL KINDS.

Apollonia, Carlsbad, Eauclap, Friedrichshafen, Hunyadi János, Pulten, Vals, Vichy, &c.

We import direct shipments of all the above regularly at short intervals.

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Photographic Apparatus, Chemicals, and Materials of all kinds suitable for Amateurs and Professionals, including Cameras, Lenses, Bells, Trays, Lamps, Mounts, &c.

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A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED.

THE SHENCHI PHARMACY, SHANGHAI,

THE CHINA MAIL.

[No. 849] MARCH 29, 1890.

To-day's Advertisements.



HONGKONG ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS.

H. E. THE GENERAL GLOUCESTER, Com-
mander-in-Chief, having approval of the
Volunteers during the SALUTE on the
Landing of H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, a Preliminary Drill, with
7 Pds. is hereby called for This Evening, at 9
p.m. All Members will oblige by attending.

Uniform—Blue Serge and Forage Caps.

N.B.—9 Drill at Forts today is cancelled.

J. McCALLUM, Capt. H.K.V.A.
Commandant.

Hongkong, March 29, 1890. 586

HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.

ORDERS for MONDAY, 31st Instant.
Musters at Head Quarters, at 9 a.m. sharp.
UNIFORM—Serge and Helmet.
Side Arms to be worn.

By Order,
H. T. HAWKINS, Captain, R.A.,
Adjutant Hongkong Volunteers.

HEAD QUARTERS,
Hongkong, March 29, 1890. 585

THE EAST ROYAL.
Announcement Extraordinary.

THIS (SATURDAY) EVENING,
the 29th March, 1890.

Termination of the Hongkong laughing
Season. Farewell Appearance of

HUDSON'S SURPRISE PARTY,

The Entertainers Patronized by Their Royal Highnesses
THE DUKE & DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT
and Marlborough.

TO-NIGHT!
Farewell to the Hongkong favourites.

MONSTER PROGRAMME.

The best bill of the Season.

THE CROWNING PINNACLE
OUR BURLESQUE OPERA.

OUR BURLESQUE OPERA.

KILL TROVATORE.

Introducing the celebrated Avril Chorus,
Sword Combat—Red Fire, &c.,
and a

Small Cycle of Bonanza—
Lost in Verbal Profundity,
New Ballads, Duet, Jokes, Dances.

Admission as usual. Smiling begins 8 p.m.
Box Office open at Messrs Kelly & Waiss's.
Thos. P. Hudson, Proprietor & Manager.
Hongkong, March 29, 1890. 584

FOR YOKOHAMA AND KOBE.

The Steamship

Daphne, Captain J. Voss, will be
despatched for the above
Ports on MONDAY, the 31st Instant, at
2 p.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

SIEMSSON & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, March 29, 1890. 583

NAVIGAZIONE GENERALE
ITALIANA
(FLORIO & ROTONDI UNITED COMPANIES.)

STEAM FOR
SINGAPORE, PENANG & BOMBAY,
Having connection with Company's Mail

Steamers to ADEN, SUZUR, PORT SAID,
MESSINA, NAPLES, (LEGHORN),
and GENOA; all MEDITERRANEAN,
ADRIATIC, LEVANTINE and SOUTH AMERI-
CAN PORTS, up to CALAO. Taking CARGO
at through rates to PERSIAN GULF
and BAGDAD.

The Co.'s Steamship
Bianco, Captain F. V. Valle, Master, will be
despatched as above on
SATURDAY, the 31st April, at Noon.

At BOMBAY the Steamers are discharging
in VICTORIA DOCK.

For further Particulars regarding Freight
and Passage, apply to

CARLOWITZ & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, March 29, 1890. 582

THE CHINA SHIPPERS' MUTUAL
STEAM NAVIGATION COM-
PANY, LIMITED.

FOR SHANGHAI, KOBE AND
YOKOHAMA.

The Co.'s Steamship

Opus, C. H. Kent, Commander,
will be despatched for
the above Ports on or about the 6th April.

For Freight, apply to

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, March 29, 1890. 581

GLEN LINE OF STEAM PACKETS,

FROM ANTWERP, LONDON, PEN-
ANG AND SINGAPORE.

THE STEAMSHIP Glenbury having ar-
rived from the above Ports, Consignees
of Cargo by her are hereby informed
that their Goods are being landed at
their risk into the Godowns of the HON-
KONG & KOWLOON WHARF & GODOWN CO.,
Limited, at Kowloon, whence delivery may
be obtained.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless
notice to the contrary be given before
NOON TO-DAY.

No Claims will be admitted, after the
Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods
remaining after the Prox. will be subject
to rent.

All Claims against the Steamer must be
presented to the Underwriters or before
the 6th April or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Claims for damage and/or shortages not
later than the 1st April, otherwise they
will not be recognized.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

JARDINE, MATTHESON & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, March 29, 1890. 580

FROM SOUTRAVAYA, BATAVIA
AND SINGAPORE.

THE Steamship Glenbury having arrived
from the above Ports, Consignees
of Cargo by her are hereby informed
that their Goods are being landed at
their risk into the Godowns of the HON-
KONG & KOWLOON WHARF & GODOWN CO.,
Limited, at Kowloon, whence delivery may
be obtained.

Cargo remaining undelivered after the
4th April will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Consignees are requested to present all
Claims for damage and/or shortages not
later than the 1st April, otherwise they
will not be recognized.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

JARDINE, MATTHESON & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, March 29, 1890. 585

FROM SOUTRAVAYA, BATAVIA
AND SINGAPORE.

THE Steamship Glenbury having arrived
from the above Ports, Consignees
of Cargo by her are hereby informed
that their Goods are being landed at
their risk into the Godowns of the HON-
KONG & KOWLOON WHARF & GODOWN CO.,
Limited, at Kowloon, whence delivery may
be obtained.

Cargo remaining undelivered after the
5th April will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Consignees are requested to present all
Claims for damage and/or shortages not
later than the 12th instant, otherwise they
will not be recognized.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

JARDINE, MATTHESON & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, March 29, 1890. 582

To-day's Advertisements.

THE STEAM LAUNCH COMPANY,
LIMITED.

ILLUMINATIONS!
ILLUMINATIONS!
ILLUMINATIONS!

STREAM LAUNCH
PERSEVERANCE

WILL make FOUR TRIPS each night
leaving PADDER'S WHARF at the
following hours to convey passengers to
theatre or to the illuminated.

PADDER'S WHARF.—PADDER'S WHARF,
Leaving 8 o'clock. Returning to 8 o'clock.

9 " 9 " 10 " 11 "

10 " 11 " 12 "

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THE CHINA MAIL.

COLONEL North, the Nitrate King, is said to be about to buy a seat in Parliament to go with the other titles that he has acquired with his millions.

The following paper relating to the Far East were read at the Institute of Civil Engineers on the 18th Feb.:—M. J. W. Hart, 'Shanghai Waterworks'; Mr J. Orange, 'The Tytan Waterworks, Hong Kong'; and Mr J. J. T. Turner, 'The Construction of the Yokohama Waterworks.'

An English religious paper publishes the following advertisement:—A lady wishes to find a good school for girls who have the broken roof, now fitting into 'sixty ages' as in the old way. Also one for boys. Mrs. Griffiths, 'Church Times' office.

The N.C. Daily News says:—Captain Bassett, of the Kiazung, takes command of the Haten, during the temporary absence of Captain B. M. Andrew, who goes to Hongkong in connection with the Kiazung Anchors collision case, which will be heard at Hongkong on the 1st April. The Kiazung leaves for Hongkong to-morrow morning (26th inst.).

The German Consul at Batavia has paid Dali a visit to see how matters stand with the 230 of his compatriots who have settled there, their master in Java coming to 600. He had previously been summoned to China, where the signature of codes to Dali in Germany was found ready on-coupons from him.

Mr. Loomis notes the fact that the Chinese at the Java ports feel restricted by the restrictions on the importation of ammunition enforced there, and have hit upon a neat trick to pass gunpowder through the custom house. They manage at Singapore to supply that article out of time into China, preserve pots and then import the powder in Java in provisions.

The Shanghai Mercury of Monday last says:—We are pleased to see that Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. are despatching the Cleverley to Koban' Yokohama on Wednesday next, which will afford shippers and passengers a good opportunity. We hope the service with Japan will be permanent, for the present facilities of communication with that country are most unsatisfactory.

The N.C. Daily News is responsible for the following:—It is suggested that the alarming spread of feverish fevers among those who do their work in houses on the bunt may be due to the Hongkong daintier granite that is now being sent to metal the bunt roadway. A man-of-war's man who was on the bunt yesterday said that he understood the Linnet was in quarantine; he heard that they had two diseases on board, influenza and plague; he was not quite sure what plague was, but thought it on the Linnet.

This evidence upon which the French Chamber of Deputies recently unseated M. Bischelholz, a banker elected from Nico, showed that 1,620 clerks had combined to sell their votes to the highest bidder, that coins varying from 12 to 20c. in value had been thrown from a balcony at a public meeting, and that 210 clerks had resolved from 20 to 25 per cent. for their votes.

The will of the late Due de Montpensier has been proved, under one hundred millions of francs or pounds, which sum is equivalent to about eight millions sterling. As he was noted already, this large sum has been divided between the Duchesse de Montpensier, the Comtesse de Parie, and Don Antonio. It is stated, however, that the Duchesse de Montpensier intended to retire into a convent, and to leave the whole of her husband's magnificent heritage to her two children, for their sole use and benefit.

The firm of Lang & Co. has applied to the Netherland India Government for a concession to utilize the island of Pulo Way, off the Achon coast, as a coaling station. The Government lends a ready ear to the suggestion, and intends to station a small garrison there as soon as the concession begins. The Raub, occupied by Mr. E. B. Albert (who is unimpaired) was considerably damaged by water. The building was insurmountable, as was the occupant of the upper storey. The loss falls upon the Singapore Fire and Marine office.

A young girl at an English school had to write an explanation of 'Prose' as a task, and not being satisfied with her effort, she sent it to Browning, to whom she was an entire stranger, with a request that he should let her know if it were good. He not only did that, but made several corrections and additions, and in returning it to her wrote: 'There my dear young lady, I have done the little that was necessary, and hope it may suffice. Affectionately yours, Robert Browning.'

Two sudden deaths occurred in Hongkong last week. The first was that of Mrs. Hester, who had only been eighteen years old, and not being satisfied with her effort, she sent it to Browning, to whom she was an entire stranger, with a request that he should let her know if it were good. He not only did that, but made several corrections and additions, and in returning it to her wrote: 'There my dear young lady, I have done the little that was necessary, and hope it may suffice. Affectionately yours, Robert Browning.'

In Singapore it is the custom for a Police Magistrate, who of course is supposed to have no nautical training, to preside at the Marine Courts of Inquiry. Several of the judgments of these Courts have given rise to much adverse criticism. 'A Skipper,' in the course of a letter to the *St. George Free Press*, says:—'Therefore those gentlemen who sit in the Court of Inquiry should bear in mind that they are not sitting merely to pass a severe sentence on the unfortunate, but that the publicity given to that inquiry is more for the guidance of other magistrates in their position, and as a caution to them to avoid a similar mistake.'

Now, Sir, for how many years did Captain Stevens, M.A., preside over the Courts of Inquiry held at Hongkong? Some have said that he was a little hard, but no one has ever heard to say that he was unjust.

Would it not be a step in the right direction, when it is again necessary to hold a Marine Court of Inquiry at Singapore to appoint Captain Crawford, M.A., President of that Court. This would prevent such a thing as an error of judgment on the part of one Magistrate in putting the saddle on the wrong horse, and the Police Magistrate from passing a sentence that in a similar case had no precedent. Magistrates themselves are liable to errors of judgment.

It is only just a few years that they were inflicting heavy fines on shipmasters for bringing deck passengers from Hongkong during the N. E. Monsoon.

It might be called something more than an error of judgment in that they did not know that a local act passed in Singapore could not overrule an Act passed by the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland.

M. OURSATI, the distinguished Russian engineer, leaves St. Petersburg shortly to survey the route of the proposed Russo-Persian railway which is to connect the Caucasian system with Teheran. An Odessa correspondent is informed on good authority that the Russians are now assured of obtaining the Shah's concession for the construction of the Persian section of the line, but that the cost per mile has not yet been definitely fixed.

The two Frenchmen who deserted from the French warship *Thermes* by means of a small punt were found wandering about the banks of the Yangtze, now fitting into 'sixty ages' as in the old way. Also one for boys. Mrs. Griffiths, 'Church Times' office.

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The question of 'John Chinaman' in America is very temporally discussed. By a Sojourner Out West' in a London evening paper. It does not omit any of his faults, but it gives him credit for such virtues as he possesses, *per contra*, which is generally omitted. The magistrate ordered the court to be cleared. On appeal the conviction was quashed on the ground that this occasioned a failure of justice but the case was reserved for the Court of Appeal. The Attorney-General appeared to argue the case. He contended that the exclusion of the public, on the ground of public policy, did not vitiate the proceedings. The exclusion was necessary to the ends of justice. In giving judgment, Mr. Chief Justice O'Malley held the conviction must be quashed. The rule in criminal cases was that if the prisoner was convicted of a capital offence, he could not be tried again for the same offence. The Attorney-General appeared to argue that the public had a right to know what was before the Court did not show that the ground was good. The proceedings were irregular and the conviction bad. The proper form of procedure under section 33 was to quash it. Justices Pollock and Guldby agreed.

We understand, says the *Singapore Free Press*, that the local branch of the New Oriental Bank Corporation has been advised by telegraph from Teheran that the Imperial Bank of Persia has purchased their business 'after March.' No information has been received as to price paid, but as the managing Directors in London lately declared to the London Correspondent of the *Evening Standard* that it might be worth while to consider the question of abandoning the field in Persia if paid a sum of not less than £200,000 for doing so, we have no doubt the New Oriental Bank has received a very handsome addition to its resources.

The *Delta Courier* of the 12th instant gives intelligence of high importance to the planting community there. By telegraph, news has come that the Viceroy of Canton has thrown open the whole of Southern China to opium recruitment for that Colony and Netherlands India as well. Now that the high Chinese authorities have been gained over, the arrival of coolie emigration from the Celestial Empire may soon be expected to follow. The planters have now only to lower the passage rates to obtain victory over the Sino coolie brokers all along the line, and drop labour will enable them to bear easily any loss arising from to befall in view.

On the 18th inst. the Singapore Agent of the Raub Australian Syndicate received a telegram from Mr. Kirby, the Manager at the Raub mine, in these words:—'Prospect good.' We (*Signapore Free Press*) have good authority for saying that independent in formation has reached Singapore referring to the facts and results upon which Mr. Kirby's telegram has been based, using even stronger terms as to the satisfactory character of those results than the guarded language used by the Raub Manager. How Raub will turn out no one can foresee, but it is of good omen that already, although out of season, very limited data, a trusty, and experienced and notoriously cautious expert, is ventured to use a well-weighted and carefully measured expression of satisfaction.

The firm of Lang & Co. has applied to the Netherland India Government for a concession to utilize the island of Pulo Way, off the Achon coast, as a coaling station. The Government lends a ready ear to the suggestion, and intends to station a small garrison there as soon as the concession begins. The Raub, occupied by Mr. E. B. Albert (who is unimpaired) was considerably damaged by water. The building was insurmountable, as was the occupant of the upper storey. The loss falls upon the Singapore Fire and Marine office.

The will of the late Due de Montpensier has been proved, under one hundred millions of francs or pounds, which sum is equivalent to about eight millions sterling. As he was noted already, this large sum has been divided between the Duchesse de Montpensier, the Comtesse de Parie, and Don Antonio. It is stated, however, that the Duchesse de Montpensier intended to retire into a convent, and to leave the whole of her husband's magnificent heritage to her two children, for their sole use and benefit.

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A young girl at an English school had to write an explanation of 'Prose' as a task, and not being satisfied with her effort, she sent it to Browning, to whom she was an entire stranger, with a request that he should let her know if it were good. He not only did that, but made several corrections and additions, and in returning it to her wrote: 'There my dear young lady, I have done the little that was necessary, and hope it may suffice. Affectionately yours, Robert Browning.'

In Singapore it is the custom for a Police Magistrate, who of course is supposed to have no nautical training, to preside at the Marine Courts of Inquiry. Several of the judgments of these Courts have given rise to much adverse criticism. 'A Skipper,' in the course of a letter to the *St. George Free Press*, says:—'Therefore those gentlemen who sit in the Court of Inquiry should bear in mind that they are not sitting merely to pass a severe sentence on the unfortunate, but that the publicity given to that inquiry is more for the guidance of other magistrates in their position, and as a caution to them to avoid a similar mistake.'

Now, Sir, for how many years did Captain Stevens, M.A., preside over the Courts of Inquiry held at Hongkong? Some have said that he was a little hard, but no one has ever heard to say that he was unjust.

Would it not be a step in the right direction, when it is again necessary to hold a Marine Court of Inquiry at Singapore to appoint Captain Crawford, M.A., President of that Court. This would prevent such a

thing as an error of judgment on the part of one Magistrate in putting the saddle on the wrong horse, and the Police Magistrate from passing a sentence that in a similar case had no precedent. Magistrates themselves are liable to errors of judgment.

It is only just a few years that they were inflicting heavy fines on shipmasters for bringing deck passengers from Hongkong during the N. E. Monsoon.

It might be called something more than an error of judgment in that they did not know that a local act passed in Singapore could not overrule an Act passed by the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland.

On the 17th February in the House of Commons, Mr. R. G. Webster asked whether any proposition had been made by the Chinese authorities to open the port of Chungking, on the Upper Yangtze, to foreign trade, on different conditions to those in the Chefoo Convention of 1876. Sir J. Ferguson, in reply, said, Discussions have taken place between the Chinese Government and Her Majesty's Legation at Peking as to the execution of that portion of the Chefoo Convention of 1876 which relates to the opening of the port of Chungking.

At the same time I am free to admit that the business of receiving the Royal Visit is apt to be overdone, and perhaps the Distinguished Guests will be tired of it before it is finished.

That it is a hopeful sign, when the native newspapers, especially those published in the North, begin to discuss the affairs of the nation so seriously and so ably as they have done during the last few months.

That is another turn eastwards and reaching the gulf seems fairly chargeable against the Praya again by way of Pedder's Street.

The procession will not be quite so large a scale as that witnessed during the Jubilee demonstrations.

The visit to Canton will occupy the whole of Thursday, and on Friday morning their Royal Highnesses will leave for Shanghai.

That although at present not even negligently given seems fairly chargeable against the Praya again by way of Pedder's Street. The procession will not be quite so large a scale as that witnessed during the Jubilee demonstrations.

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THE CHINA MAIL.

[No. 8491.—MARCH 26, 1890.]

RUSSIA AND THE PROPOSED RAILWAY TO KIRIN.

Executive modesty is certainly not the failing of our Tientsin contemporary, the *Chinese Times*. The editor is frank enough that two of his articles, on new railways for Chinese communication in Siberian rivers, cause great commotion in military circles in St. Petersburg and bid the Russian Government to despatch additional agents to Siberia and to manifest great anxiety about the security of the frontier. There was nothing complacently remarks our contemporary, in its article of 16th November that might not have been written by any person of moderate intelligence without drawing upon sources of information not open to all the world. But it unwittingly touched a sensitive chord which vibrated to the very heart of Russian policy, and set in motion all the Governmental Grand Dukes in the capital as if a bomb from an unsuspected bomb had exploded suddenly in the city. The bare hint of a Chinese railway between Peking and Kirin brought together the military advisers of the Russian Empire to consider what countermoves might be necessary to protect the frontier against this strategic movement on the part of China.

Our contemporary may have set the Russian empire in commotion, but we are rather inclined to think that Russia has agents in China who are as likely to know what is going on as the editor of the Tientsin *Times*. Besides, we doubt very much

if it was a desire of Chinese aggression that induced Russia to take the step for the safety of Siberia which she is said to have taken. There are troubles in Siberia itself that might well warrant the despatch of additional regiments, and Russia, in view of the recent Nihilist troubles, might have good reason to conceal the real motive of the Chinese begin. Be that as it may, our contemporary's remarks on the situation are very forcible, and will doubtless be found interesting.

If the river systems of Asia form one of the determining factors in the distribution of political power over the continent, the Songari appears specially destined to do so. The wide reaches of Chinese Manchuria, and the fate of that portion of the frontier bears a not very remote relation to that of China as a whole. This river, the main artery of Manchuria, is navigable for almost its entire length, carrying deep water from its confluence with the Amur to the city of Kirin, and it flows throughout its whole course within Chinese territory.

The Imperial Government has indeed, in its laudable and semi-conscious fashion, recognized the strategical importance of Kirin by establishing there what passes under the name of an Army. But the condition of the roads is such that the transportation of heavy material from the sea-port of Nakhodka is not slow and difficult merely. Without a railway, there

fore, Kirin, the military key to the whole of the vast and rich territory of Manchuria, is inaccessible to China. But it is not impossible to the Power which, under conceivable circumstances, might bend its will to the service of China in these regions, for with their steam boats on the Amur the Russians can at any time and by force the Chinese, if they so desire, to cede the real motive of the Chinese begin. Be that as it may, our contemporary's remarks on the situation are very forcible, and will doubtless be found interesting.

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More than ever does it become necessary for her to look well to her position in Manchuria, for on the North-eastern frontier, according to these latest indications, is the next arena likely to gather. It is easier far, however, to alarm Russia, which has nothing to fear, than China, whose interests are really concerned; and consequently it would not be very difficult to force the probable course of events to a standstill. Everything will turn on the advantage of the Power that has the afloat, and to the disadvantage of the one that is afloat. Without either force or fraud, the one must win and the other lose. The familiar rule, *visibilis non dominetur seorsim*, has been thrown open to Russian and Chinese craft, to the exclusion of those of all other nations. At that time the Amur was the boun-

dary in referring to the subject in plain terms now that the Russian Government has shown its hand. The two treaties since 1858 are most instructive as a chapter of history which is still in the process of unfolding. These treaties have been to China a series of snarls, as treaties made by superior intelligence must ever be to the weaker party. A momentary peace, or transient advantage, is purchased by signing away the birthright; repentence follows, and futile efforts are made to break the compact; this is the resource of the weak, but it is not, as the course of events in every land demonstrates. From this, the fatal weakness of savage, the grandeur and culture of China have not been able altogether to save her, and bitter have been the humiliations she has brought on herself by her mistaken estimation of her station, who so easily persuade themselves that to nullify a treaty by evasion is the highest policy.

The particular dilemma in which China now finds herself appears to be the direct result of one of these characteristic strokes of statesmanship. In 1858, at a moment admirably chosen by the vigilant power, a treaty was concluded between China and Russia at Aigun, on the Amur river, in which the navigation of that stream, its tributaries, the Songari and Uauri, was thrown open to Russian and Chinese craft, to the exclusion of those of all other na-

tions. At that time the Amur was the boun-

dary between the two territories, China still

owning the right bank to the mouth of the river. It was consequently a real

concession to Russia to allow the use

entirely within the dominions of China.

But, true to their tradition, the Chinese

authorities barred fulfillment of the stipulation, and refused passage to Russian

craft on the two rivers, although by a sub-

sequent treaty in 1860, the whole right bank

of the Uauri had been ceded to Russia during

the panic caused by the Franco-

English invasion. Russian trade was

not parharm in so forward a condition as

to feel the privation very keenly, and the

Government seems to have been

content to wait on events, a policy

which Russian statesmen understand exceedingly well. China, if she thought anything at all about the matter, probably placed herself on having so quietly disposed of this troublesome claim. But she had discovered within the last two years, the result without her having done so, that the Amur was the

project which the Government was zealous to lose. Machinery had to be sent up;

to transport it by land, and the Chinese had recourse to the Amur river, the mouth of which the material was shipped and put

ashore ready for landing in river craft.

Now was Russia's opportunity. The Governor of the Amur province interdicted the conveyance of the machinery by the Moho mines could not, however, be worked without machinery, and the Chinese Government was found to become a suppliant for favors. It was now, however, the turn of Russia to assume the rôle of passive resistance which China had so long regarded as her own prerogative; the imperial lay for months under embargo, and not until other means failing, the Russian Minister in Peking was induced to use his good offices in intercessing with the Government of St. Petersburg, was the obduracy of the Amur authorities melted. In this affair H. E. M. Company acted a most friendly part to China, and earned, as deserved, not only that on occasion only, the gratitude of more than one important Chinese official.

The incident made a deep impression on the Chinese, and the helplessness of their position was brought home to them with unpleasant emphasis. They now see that Russia reserves to her sole use that grand water-way, the Amur, while the Songari, which China vainly imagined she was reserving for herself is rendered absolutely useless to her except under sufferance of Russia, which commands its mouth, and, as circumstances now are, controls its whole course. Were China strong, or even a weak or intelligent power, she still retains as against Russia the innumerable advantage of fading down stream, and, given the requisite material and men she could turn the tables on her rival, and not only keep the Songari, but dominate the Amur itself. This is precisely what the Russian military authorities are exercised about, for if the Chinese Government really had the wisdom and energy to make a railway to Kirin, to establish a strong military position there, to create a flotilla properly armed, to be carried in pieces by rail and put together in a Kirin naval yard, then China might have the command of the Red Sea communications in the absence of all our own of these appliances, Russia now has of the Chinese. This is a question of supreme urgency for China, and if there be any "awakening" in her, I hope soon the world will be able to judge of by the nature of the reply she makes to the Russian agitation.

on which the First Call of \$15.00 per share,

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GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.,

General Managers,

Hongkong, March 10, 1890.

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